

## **V. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

### **Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A utility portal frame comprising:  
a base plate having an aperture to provide a portal entrance and an outer peripheral edge,  
and  
at least one side wall dependent from the base plate, the at least one side wall extending substantially orthogonally relative to the base plate from the outer peripheral edge, wherein the frame includes a means adapted to facilitate raising of the frame from a first position to a second position substantially without disturbance to material surrounding the at least one side wall.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) A frame according to claim 1, wherein the frame is adapted to support a cover and the at least one side wall extends substantially upwardly from the base plate to such a height so as to substantially align with an upper surface of the cover when the cover is engaged with the frame.
4. (Previously Presented) A frame according to claim 1, wherein the base plate has a shape selected from round and oval.
5. (Previously Presented) A frame according to claim 1, wherein the base plate has a shape selected from polygonal and triangular.
6. (Previously Presented) A frame according to claim 1, wherein the frame is made from a substantially rigid or firm material.
7. (Previously Presented) A frame according to claim 1, wherein the frame is provided in a configuration selected from substantially rectangular, square and triangular.

8. (Currently Amended) A utility portal comprising:  
a frame, which comprises a base plate having an outer peripheral edge, and at least one wall, which at least one wall extends substantially orthogonally from the outer peripheral edge;  
a cover engageable with the frame;  
wherein the frame ~~is operable to be raised~~ includes a means adapted to facilitate raising of the frame from a first position substantially below a new surface plane to a second position to align with the new surface plane substantially without disturbance to an existing surface adjacent to the frame.
9. (Original) A portal according to claim 8, wherein the frame includes an aperture of a size to allow a human to substantially pass through the frame.
10. (Previously Presented) A portal according to claim 8, wherein the frame is provided in a configuration selected from substantially round, oval, rectangular, square and triangular.
11. (Previously Presented) A portal according to claim 8, wherein the base plate has a shape selected from round and oval.
12. (Previously Presented) A method of raising a utility portal frame from a first position to a second position comprising:  
engaging a jack in a jack point provided in a base plate of a frame secured to a mounting surface at the first position; and  
operating the jack to raise the frame from the first position to the second position,  
wherein at least one wall dependent from the base plate and extending substantially orthogonally relative to the base plate slides upwardly relative to material surrounding the frame without substantially disturbing the surrounding material.
- 13-14. (Cancelled)